

**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
BUDGET COMMITTEE
DECISION DAY ONE FY13 BUDGET
MINUTES
Cone Room - 9:00 A.M.
Wednesday, February 29, 2012**

Present:

- Committee: Joseph L. Pellegrino, Chairman; William R. Finger, Jeff Ramer, Leslie L. Tarkington
- Staff: Peter Mynarski Comptroller, Roland Gieger, Budget Director;
- Other: John Crary, Town Administrator; Dustin Anderson, Executive Assistant to First Selectman, Selectman, Leslie Moriarty, Board of Education
- Board: Michael Mason, Chairman Greg Bedrosian, Sean Goldrick, Randall Huffman, Mary Lee Kiernan, Marc Johnson, Robert Brady, Art Norton

Mr. Pellegrino called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

Mr. Pellegrino explained to the Committee the process he would be following for Decision Day. Mr. Pellegrino stated that the Committee would vote on positive items to the budget first, followed by negative items to the budget and then ending with adjustments to the Capital Project items. All items were moved by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Finger, unless otherwise noted. All of the following items were unanimous with 4 to 0 positive votes unless otherwise noted. The actions of the Committee were as follows:

Positive Items to the Budget

- Purchasing Department - Account # 106-51300 (Temporary Salaries) – reduce by \$2,331.
- Human Resources Department – Account # 109-51300 (Temporary Salaries) – reduce by \$20,724.
- Fleet Department – Account # 380-51010 (Salaries) and #380-51100 (Overtime) – reduce combined accounts by \$15,292. Roland Gieger to determine proration.
- Health Department – Account # 401-51980 (New Positions) – reduce by \$80,722.
- Information Technology Department – Account # 134-51980 (New Positions) – reduce by \$70,898. The vote was 3 to 1, Mr. Ramer voting no. Mr. Ramer felt the new position was a good request which he stated was recommended and supported by Mr. Crary. Mr. Finger, Ms. Tarkington and Mr. Pellegrino voted yes to eliminate the budget request, citing the need to perform a strategic study of the department by Blum and Shapiro before adding this position.
- Board of Assessment Appeals – Account # 136-51300 (Temporary Salaries) – reduce by \$4,000.

- Fire Department – Volunteers – Account # 208-57100 (Healthcare Costs) – reduce by \$40,000.
- Reduce Town and Board of Education Electric Accounts by \$200,000 – Account # 345-52220 (DPW Electric) – reduce by \$95,000, Account # 650-52220 (BOE Maintenance of Plants – Electric) – reduce by \$105,000.
- Reduce the Board of Education Budget by \$450,000.
- Increase revenue for Single Stream Recycling by \$100,000. Account to be determined.
- Increase revenue for State Sales Tax reimbursement by \$397,000. Account to be determined.

Negative Items to the Budget

- Fixed Charges – Employee Benefits - Account # 901-57010 (Pension Contribution) – increase by \$800,000.
- Fire Department – Fire Fighting Force - Account # 205-51100 (Overtime) – increase by \$700,000. There were supportive comments from the Committee members stressing the need to enhance staffing at the Glenville Fire Station to increase response time for emergencies.
- Fire Department – Fire Fighting Force – Account # 205-53950 (Supplies and Materials) – increase by \$11,500.
- Department of Public Works – increase various accounts by \$18,000 for longevity payments to employees.
- Fixed Charges – Employee Benefits - Account # 901-57940 (Special Accounting) – increase by \$53,750.
- Land Use Departments – increase Planning and Zoning by \$100, Conservation Commission by \$982 and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses by \$907 to various accounts.
- Planning and Zoning Department – Account # 161-51490 (Professional Services) – increase by \$30,000.
- Fixed Charges – Employee Benefits - : Police Compensatory Time – increase by \$150,000 – Account to be determined.
- Fixed Charges – Account # 999-57122 (Contribution to Risk Financing) – increase by \$99,000.
- Finance Department – Account # 130-53070 (Data/Work Processing Supplies) – increase by \$10,000.

The Committee voted on the following Capital Project items:

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Refresh – add \$350,000. This item was left out of the CIP process.
- Vehicles – Fire Department Rescue Pumper – reduce (\$560,000). The request was for two pumpers. One pumper was eliminated.
- Police Department – Public Safety Portable Radio Deployment Program Phase II – reduce (\$44,000). This request was cut in half.
- Public Works – Holly Hill Transfer Station – reduce (\$1,550,000). This is a partial reduction. Mr. Finger reported that there is \$370,000 left from a prior appropriation and \$450,000 will be left from this request. Mr. Finger pointed out that the \$820,000 would be spent in the following fashion; \$75,000 for a trailer, \$365,000 for a new

scale house, \$320,000 for engineering costs and \$60,000 for design for the sewer line relocation.

- Public Works – Trackless Four Wheel Drive Articulated Municipal Tractor – reduce by (\$194,000).
- Public Works – Diesel Fire Melter for Crack Sealing of Roadways – reduce by (\$61,000).
- Public Works – Emergency Generator for Animal Shelter – reduce by \$175,000.
- Public Works – Byram Beach/Pool Master Plan – reduce by \$150,000. This item was moved by Ms. Tarkington and seconded by Mr. Pellegrino. The vote was 3 to 1 in favor of reducing the request, Mr. Ramer voting no. The Committee members voting to cut the funding stressed that they are in favor of the project proceeding. The reason for the cut in funding was due to the availability of funds to keep the project moving forward until a more defined scope of the project and better estimate of the costs of the project are available.
- Fleet Department – GPS system – add \$112,000. This item was left out of the CIP process.
- GEMS – Greenwich Emergency Medical Space Planning – reduce by (\$250,000).
- Board of Education Capital Projects – reduce by (\$500,000). The reductions were as follows: Mechanical System Upgrades (\$300,000); Building Envelope & Structures – Life Cycle Replacements (\$44,000); Interior – Finishes (\$106,000); Consultant Fee for Next FY Capital Projects (\$50,000).

Other Funds: The Committee proceeded to act on the following funds:

- Recommendation to accept the Sewer Maintenance Fund as submitted for an amount of \$9,991,847.
- Recommendation to accept the Sewer Improvement Fund as submitted for an amount of \$9,175,000.
- Recommendation to accept the Nathaniel Witherell Fund as submitted for an amount of \$24,108,559.
- Recommendation to accept the School Lunch Fund as submitted for an amount of \$3,860,741.
- Recommendation to accept the Parking Fund as submitted for an amount of \$4,226,088.
- Recommendation to accept the Griffith E. Harris Golf Fund as submitted for an amount of \$2,020,459.
- Recommendation to accept the OPEB Fund as submitted for an amount of \$9,575,000.

On a motion by Ms. Tarkington, seconded by Mr. Finger, the Committee voted 4 to 0 to accept the final budget, as amended.

Mr. Pellegrino referred everyone to a "Fund Balance Summary" document distributed at the meeting and pointed out that with a \$7 million reserve for Hillside Remediation taken out, the total unreserved Fund Balance stood at 5.1% of the final Total General Fund budget for fiscal year 2012-2013.

Mr. Pellegrino called on his fellow Committee members to make closing remarks.

Mr. Ramer congratulated the Chairman and his fellow Committee members on a job well done. Mr. Ramer pointed out that the 2.75% increase in the mill rate was the lowest in decades and was proud of this accomplishment.

Ms. Tarkington noted the increase in funding for enhanced fire staffing in the northwest part of Greenwich, specifically the increased staffing at the Glenville Fire Station, as a highlight of this budget session and thanked everyone.

Mr. Finger echoed the sentiments of Mr. Ramer and Ms. Tarkington and thanked the Chairman. In addition, Mr. Finger stated that two issues need to be addressed in future budget deliberations. Mr. Finger stressed the need to improve the CIP process and to develop budget guidelines that are more consistent, particularly in dealing with the BOE budget.

Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone including; the First Selectman, Dr. Lulow and the BOE, the Finance Department staff and department heads. Mr. Pellegrino pointed out that he was proud to have the BOE bring three middle school principals in for a unique approach to presenting the BOE budget. He noted it was the first time this approach had been taken. Mr. Pellegrino took the time to especially thank his fellow Budget Committee members.

Mr. Pellegrino also took the opportunity to properly reflect on addressing the budget drivers that the Committee took head-on this year and included the following:

- Addressing the Hillside Road Soil Remediation Issue
- Addressing the Pension Contribution, specifically reducing the interest rate assumption
- Addressing the fire staffing issue in the Northwest Quadrant of Greenwich
- Addressing the Police Compensatory Time Issue

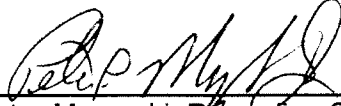
Mr. Pellegrino also pointed that there are difficult choices that lie ahead that the BET will have to address in future budgets such as:

- The Nathaniel Witherell Nursing Facility and the subsidizing of Project Renew
- The Central Fire House construction project
- The Hay Study Project Team and implementation of its recommendations
- Getting a handle on Information Technology issues
- Police Compensatory Time
- Shared Services – specifically the first floor in Town Hall
- Labor Negotiations

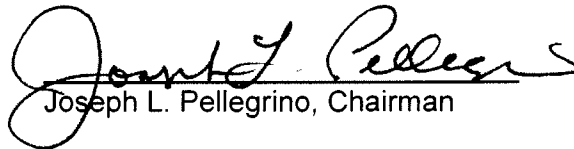
Mr. Pellegrino closed by thanking everyone again.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary



Joseph L. Pellegrino, Chairman